Rail link between Bangalore and Pondicherry

2995. SHRI T.M. VENKATACHALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long pending demand for connecting Bangalore with Pondicherry *via* Krishnagiri, Samalpathi, Thiruvannamalai and Tindivanam; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No demands have been received in this regard till now.

(b) Does not arise.

Train service from New Delhi to Kanyakumari

2996. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 325 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd August, 1996 and state:

(a) whether he had stated that attaching of new bogies on trains to Kanyakumari can be considered in view of the fact that it is a tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways are providing new air brake coaches on trains on a selective basis which are planned in advance. Therefore new coaches for Kanyakumari bound trains will be allotted during 1997-98.

Attachment of ladies compartment in the trains

2997. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assurance was given by him to the representatives of Kerala Women Commission that ladies compartments will be attached in the middle of the trains and picture of a women will be painted on that compartment so that illiterate women would easily identify it; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Generally Ladies Compartments, in Second class is provided in the 'S' portion next to Guard in the rear so that the Guard can keep a watch on the entry of unwanted passengers etc. However, Railways have been authorised to marshal ladies coaches in the middle. Instructions already exist to paint a picture of a woman on the nominatd compartment outside.

Revival of Haldibari-Chilahati Rail Line

2998. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to revive Haldibari-Chilahati railway line for smooth exports to Bangladesh and to ease road congestion in Coochbehar district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has since been taken on such requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Requests have been received from